

March 24, 2009

The Honorable Frank LoBiondo  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2427 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman LoBiondo:

On behalf of Rutgers, thank you for your consideration of our FY2010 request to fund, "The New Jersey Cranberry/Blueberry Disease & Breeding project." This program has and will continue to have far reaching effects on the New Jersey cranberry and blueberry industry. Research on breeding and pest management will provide continued support for the 50 million dollar a year industry. Past research has found bacterial anti-adherence mechanisms helping to fight urinary tract infection and dental caries, and other antioxidant properties. A major effort within the breeding program aims to enhance these health beneficial properties.

As you know, New Jersey is a major producer of both cranberries and blueberries with a total industry value of over \$50 million per annum, and is located within the New Jersey Pinelands, a designated National Reserve and UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. Thus, the development and adoption of integrated pest management (IPM) practices and precision agricultural approaches to blueberry and cranberry management will benefit the surrounding wetlands environment.

The benefits of funding this request are quite substantial. Farmers are among the largest private landowners in the Pinelands and native berry farming is a major economic force by providing employment and revenue to the local economy. It is therefore critical to provide research that will support the economic and environmental sustainability of these industries. In addition, the research on beneficial health properties of both berries clearly benefits millions of Americans.

Again , we thank you for your consideration of this project.

Sincerely,



Francine Newsome Pfeiffer  
Assistant Vice President for Federal Relations